

Sheriff

Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

Fax:

Fran McLaughlin
Public Information Officer

Phone: 414-278-5226 Fax: 414-223-1852

fran.mclaughlin@milwcnty.con

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE **December 22, 2010**

Fake Lawyer Charged with Eleven Counts in Criminal Complaint

Milwaukee, WI – A Milwaukee man working as a fake attorney faces eleven counts in a criminal complaint filed against him today. Thomas J. Lyon, 28, is charged with two counts of Practicing Law Without a License, Theft, three counts of Unauthorized Use of Personal Identifying Information or Documents, and five counts of Forgery.

Lyon promoted himself as an attorney on a website and has been fraudulently practicing law by misappropriating a legitimate attorney's bar license number. A review of court records show Thomas J. Lyon appeared in at least eight court cases, including lawsuits, support and maintenance hearings and divorces.

A witness stated that while carrying out his deceit, Lyon had bragged that he is like the lead character in the movie, "Catch Me If You Can," who assumed numerous false identities including that of an attorney.

He also operated a prostitution service under the guise of an escort service at Comfort Inn Suites in Milwaukee.

A State of Wisconsin probation agent indicated Lyon was convicted in the State of New York for Grand Larceny, Fourth Degree Stalking, and False Imprisonment.

After executing a search warrant on the fake law office, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office confiscated and is examining Lyon's office computers. If convicted on all counts, the defendant faces $53 \frac{1}{2}$ years in prison and a \$90,500 fine.

No further information is available at this time.

###